

November 3, 2000

To: Delta Protection Commission

From: Margit Aramburu, Executive Director

Subject: Hunting on Sherman and Twitchell Islands

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Background:

At the September meeting, Commissioner Calone asked about hunting on Sherman and Twitchell Islands now that much of the land on those two islands is owned by the State of California (Department of Water Resources) and leased for agriculture.

Blending Agriculture and Hunting:

Department of Fish and Game staff is very careful to plan the hunting program around the agricultural practices and needs of the tenant farmers on the DWR lands. DFG staff believes the program is successful because it does not require any special treatment or place any burdens on the farmers.

Private Hunting:

DWR purchased a private duck club on western Sherman Island (Mayberry Farms). Terms of the purchase allow the private duck club to continue using the club lands for the private hunt club for the time being.

Public Pheasant Hunting:

Department of Fish and Game manages a public hunting program on Sherman and Twitchell Islands after the crops have been harvested on the leased lands. The hunts are open to anyone with a valid California Hunting License and hunts are free. Access to all hunts is by permit only. Permits are awarded through random drawings, which are held at least two weeks prior to each hunt. The DFG office in Stockton manages the hunts.

The number of hunt permits varies from hunt to hunt depending upon crop harvest. It usually starts out around 30 for each island and then goes up to around 70 for Twitchell and about 100 on Sherman.

According to the DFG web site, public hunts are scheduled for every Wednesday and Saturday during pheasant season--November 11 through December 9; Women's pheasant hunt is scheduled for November 12, and Junior pheasant hunts are scheduled for November 18 and 19. There will be total of 11 hunts on Twitchell and 8 hunts on Sherman Island.

Public Waterfowl Hunting:

Public waterfowl hunting starts on Wednesday, December 13, and continues every Wednesday and Saturday through January 20. Two special junior hunt days will be offered after the close of

waterfowl season on January 27 and 28. There will be a total of 14 waterfowl hunts on each island. This includes an expanded waterfowl hunting program on Sherman Island this year.